

which, in the past, were often interpreted as an extension of the process at each point where activity is apparent.

The reaction, too, causes proliferation of the cells in the periphery of tubercles, even though they be caseous, and is responsible for scar formation and healing.

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Bacteriology

Economic Value of Mosquito Control.—Current arguments in favor of mosquito control are based largely on the rôle of mosquitoes in the transmission of human disease. More convincing arguments based on the control of economically important veterinary diseases have been largely overlooked. The recent demonstration of mosquito transmission of fowl-pox is, therefore, of general interest.

Klinger, Muckenfuss, and Rivers¹ report that at least two common species of mosquito can transmit this disease, and that the mosquitoes remain infectious for at least two weeks after biting a diseased fowl.

While fowl-pox is rarely fatal, it does cause a serious economic loss through reduction in body weight and interference with egg production.

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Urology

Prostatic Massage.—The technique and indications for prostatic massage are probably as little understood by the average physician as any urological procedures which he is called upon to perform. Pelouze has described these in detail in his recent work.¹ Gentleness is the first and foremost necessity in prostatic massage, as indeed it is in any urological procedure. If prostatic secretion for diagnostic purposes is desired the patient washes the urethra by voiding, then stands or kneels with the body flexed on the thighs. The gloved, lubricated index finger is passed into the rectum as far as possible, its tip reaching a little above the upper margin of the prostate. The vesicles are situated just above this margin on either side, and are stripped as high as the finger can reach by a downward motion, first on one side, then on the other. It is more successfully accomplished if the bladder has previously been filled with an antiseptic solution. After this is repeated several times, first one lobe of the prostate is massaged by passing the finger over its surface in a downward and medial direction, four or five strokes being necessary to cover the lobe. Then the other lobe is massaged in the same manner. After both lobes are thus emptied into the posterior urethra the latter is gently stripped by passing the finger downward in the midline. Inasmuch as the prostatic urethra is the most sensitive portion of the prostate this latter manipula-

tion must be very gentle and not repeated more than once or twice. If this method of massage is carried out, it is seldom that a secretion cannot be obtained, even though only very gentle pressure is used.

Prostatic massage must not be repeated more frequently than twice a week; every five days is preferable.² Very gentle pressure is used at first, and gradually increased at each subsequent treatment. It should never be so severe as to cause the patient extreme pain. A slight show of blood in the secretion is an indication of roughness. As the prostate becomes accustomed to massage it can tolerate more pressure.

A prostatic secretion which contains more than six pus cells per high power field is evidence of prostatitis, and in most cases is an indication for treatment by massage. It is not possible to treat a prostate long enough and thoroughly enough to rid it of every pus cell.³ When there are but four or five pus cells in the high power field, and these are not in clumps, a better result is not required unless the patient still complains of symptoms which might be attributed to the prostatitis. Sexual hygiene can do more than anything else to clear up this last remnant of infection.

Acute inflammation of the prostate contraindicates massage.¹ Disturbance of the organ in this state only serves to increase the inflammation. It may produce abscess formation, or may liberate infection causing a systemic reaction. It should never be massaged in the presence of an acute urethritis, for many prostates have become infected after such manipulation.

A few patients will be found who seem to have an idiosyncrasy for massage. Their symptoms will increase; frequency and urgency will develop after the massage, and no improvement will be evident. Such patients are best treated by other methods. It is doubtful if massage aids in the treatment of the tuberculous prostate; in fact, some authorities state that it is both harmful and dangerous.⁴ The same may be said of the carcinomatous prostate. Massage of the fibrous and hypertrophied prostates is not beneficial unless infection is present, but neither is it harmful.

Summary.—The technique and indications for prostatic massage are important. In massaging the prostate gentleness is paramount. The vesicles and prostate are stroked with a downward and medial stroke, then with a light downward stroke in the midline. More than six pus cells per high power field is an indication for massage treatment, unless there is acute inflammation in the prostate or urethra.

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